

Lagaria Anna

The DEB course

After my master thesis realised in the Oceanological Center of Marseille, where I worked with supervisor Jean-Christophe Poggiale, I have a great interest in matters concerning modelisation of biological systems. This gave me a first motive to participate in this telecourse; out of curiosity to see what exactly is the DEB theory and how it deals with the problems we come up with when working with biological systems (level of organisation, environmental effects & constrains, model simplicity vs realism). Also, being in the very beginning of a Ph.D (concerning the relationships of heterotrophic bacteria and phytoplankton according to the underlying trophic conditions) I saw it as an interesting and very useful knowledge for futur work.

During the course I realised that it was more difficult than I had expected/ or I had imagined, in the context that as a whole it provides a very wide range of material, applications and general and specified examples. It was therefore rather difficult to assimilate every part of the material. And certainly one who is firstly introduced in DEB theory, needs to spend a significant amount of time (something which is not always manageable), if wants to understand the theory deeply.

However, even if there are parts that I passed over and couldn't follow every reasoning, I found the organisation of the book rather nice and the separation in two sub-programs useful in lightening the material. Nevertheless, I think that some chapters, like for example chapter 5, are also important for the comprehension of the DEB theory. Moreover, the excercises and quizzes can contribute to the better comprehension of some parts, but once again there is a problem with the time spending on them.

For me this first and more general approach of the DEB theory was realy interesting and put the basis for futur thinking and working. Once being more specialized in the certain field of research, it would be challenging to get into more details and possibly try an application.